

target of 15,000 hectares, which is higher than the target fixed for the purpose.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Joint Ventures for Road Projects

5755. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any private parties have approached the Government for forming Joint Ventures to road projects in the Country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of States where such projects have been indentified;

(d) the amount of total investment estimated for the projects and the share of contribution of each of them; and

(e) whether the Government propose to give any sops for private participation ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, such proposal for Joint Venture with Government is under consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) To attract Private Sector, various fiscal concessions have been announced including liberalisation of ECB procedure and automatic approval to foreign equity participation upto 74%.

State Social Welfare Advisory Boards

5756. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum dated December 19, 1996 had been received from All India Federation of Social Welfare Employees Association, P.O. Bandwan, District Purulia, West Bengal regarding various problems, grievances and demands of employees of different cadres working in both Central as well as State Social Welfare Advisory Boards; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No final decision regarding the status of the State boards has been taken. Amalgamation of State Boards with respective Department and other issues cited

in the Memorandum is linked to the status of State Boards.

AIDS

5757. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding rising incidence of HIV and AIDS in the States of Manipur, Aurnachal Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check its spread ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have been included in the surveillance activity, for HIV infection. As of March, 1997 the details of HIV positive and AIDS cases are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Name of State	HIV Positive	AIDS cases
1.	Manipur	3843	232
2.	Meghalaya	57	Nil
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil

(c) In order to prevent and control spread of HIV/AIDS in India a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation as a centrally sponsored scheme throughout the country. The strategies of the Programme consist of creation of awareness among high risk behaviour group and general public about HIV/AIDS, Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Blood Safety and rational use of blood, strengthen the surveillance and diagnosis and clinical management of HIV/AIDS cases.

[Translation]

Expansion/Maintenance of National Highways in Gujarat

5758. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of national highways in Gujarat on which widening/expansion and maintenance work has been undertaken since February 1997 till date and the time by which this work is likely to be started on the rest of the national highways passing through Gujarat; and

(b) the details of the estimated cost involved therein and the actual expenditure there incurred thereon so far?